

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 AT TCLT OFFICE, 380 JANIS CT**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Rotwein called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Committee members in attendance: Cuthbertson, Morehead, Brown, Kenny, Kitchen, Myers. Member of public in attendance: Aliesha Brown. City Staff in attendance: Price-Hall.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kitchen/Cuthbertson Motion to approve minutes as corrected.

**III. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

Aliesha Brown attended the meeting to educate herself and hear what is going on with Trinidad Trails.

**IV. STAFF REPORTS**

Rotwein: The biggest thing for the City is the lighthouse issue and what the Civic club will be doing. Nothing about Van Wycke yet. The Edwards street failure will be included in the Van Wycke trail project. Cuthbertson: A dog fell off the trail and the deputy was called. Neighbors helped the dog back onto the trail. The Van Wycke trail has a barricade with a sign to use at your own risk. It needs to have a more complete barricade. It's not being barricaded properly. The City isn't barricading it properly. Morehead: Needs to be a short term trail recommendation list from the committee with what needs to be done now and why. Should a prioritized list be created? How do these issues get put forward to the Council? Rotwein: As these things come up and are identified, how will they be dealt with? Kitchen: There should be a detour sign at the top. Cuthbertson: The City should mark the trail closure at Edwards and at Gallindo so trail users don't have to back track. They won't do it. Kitchen - Is the trail committee on the CC agenda? Rotwein: No, but it is part of my committee chair report. Brown: The City website could list some of the things going on and trail advisories about closed trails and work going on with the trails to keep everyone updated and let tourists what is going on. Rotwein: that is a very good idea. The Trinidad head is scheduled to have vegetation management done by the convict crew. It has been 5 years since that has been taken care of. It would be good to have the closure posted on the City website. Cuthbertson: it [vegetation maintenance] has been done in the recent past. Morehead: that was the BLM [lighthouse] parcel that was having invasive species removed. Cuthbertson: My point is that the City needs to hire an outside contractor for vegetation management.

**V. COMMITTEE MEMBER TRAIL REPORTS**

Morehead: CCNM Trinidad Gateway committee – the City of Trinidad trail committee would be a great partner group for CCNM. We talk about trails; have a website and coordinate about partner events such as the State Parks monthly ivy pull, opening lighthouse property to the public, etc. State parks and some of the other agencies want to communicate with us. The topic of dogs is not on the [Trail Committee] agenda – it should be on the next meeting agenda to discuss dogs and trails. I talked to a professor about dogs on the trails. Single women with their dogs are the highest trail user group. Prohibiting dogs would impact that group because women feel safer with their dog. That is a key consideration. Cuthbertson – City Council told the deputy to start enforcing the dog ordinance. I warned a woman with a dog not on the leash and she thanked me. Morehead: I want to encourage the trail maintenance. I want the group to make a list. Trinidad Head needs signage – this relates to the Rancheria's development of the parking lot. Brown: The biggest issue is that many residents in town don't want any signs to be put up at all because they block the view etc... I'm not here to dwell on things that have happened in the past but want to make things better into the future. Rancheria received grant funding to develop some signs so this will be happening.

Morehead: the land trust gets hassled for signs too, so this is a common problem. Brown: Going back to dogs – the Trinidad Head has a doggie bag holder – the city could put more of these holders around town so these locations could be posted on the website as well.

Kitchen: My only comment would be that the City did a good job putting up mountain lion siting signs so people would be aware of this.

Brown: old news – The Rancheria trust status effort has been going on a long time. The Trinidad Rancheria is trying to be as transparent as possible. The Rancheria wants to work with the City. We have been working together for a long time and we want to keep on with that with as much communication as possible - people are concerned that won't continue. Kenny - are there any updates online about the process? Brown - there are no updates right now. It is a long process to put land into trust and work with lots of different agencies. It's a lot of work and I have lots of mixed emotions. They lost the property in the past then it is a lot of paperwork to get it back. That doesn't mean a lot when you know where you came from - I love Trinidad.

Kenny: I emailed Patrick's Point about the flower and also mentioned that a bridge needed to be repaired. It was already repaired a couple of weeks later.

Cuthbertson: Old Wagon Road trail – the berry bushes are terrible and I spend 20 min – half an hour maintaining the trails. The City should hire an outside contractor to do the work on a regular basis. Rotwein - There isn't a trail maintenance schedule so we need to start at square one.

## **VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. Evaluation tool for monitoring trails**

Morehead: this is a TCLT template monitoring report for any trail that needs to be updated. It is a way to document things with photos and comments and could be part of the maintenance plan. We talked about filling these out for the TCLT trails. Rotwein – This tool could be developed for the Committee use. Who would be using this tool - Public Works staff or the committee members? Kitchen - The sample form that was filled in for the Houda Point trail was helpful to visualize how it could be used. Rotwein –how is the documentation developed about the trails? How will trails be prioritized for maintenance? Kitchen – The initial trail report's 4 criteria could be incorporated into this tool. Morehead – the next tool could be observation based so it doesn't need so much skill to fill out.

Brown: digital signage could let people in the community what is happening – a screen that could alert people about trail work, hazards, etc., then every couple minutes a different update could be displayed. Kenny -There is a potential need for a central visitation place, kiosk or something. Brown – over the last 10 years people have been getting information on their smart phones. Having something simple created for the City that could give updates on all trails. Kenny – this could be a Facebook page. Rotwein – a centralized kiosk keeps coming up. Kenny – someone has to keep this up. Kitchen –what happened to the previous kiosk? Morehead – it was vandalized then hit by a car so was taken down.

Kenny: the tool is more specific than we need so some of the things don't apply – it could be simplified and made useful for Public Works and the committee. Gail agreed to be the lead on this. Rotwein - This would include incorporating the initial criteria for the trails. The deadline is October 10 to get these to Gail so the updated version will be available for the next meeting.

### **2. Memorial Bench Policy**

The draft bench policy did not get included in the meeting packets, so it will be circulated following the meeting. Rotwein – there is no bench policy and people paid \$50 for a plaque (50 years ago). No maintenance or anything was provided for. In the meantime benches need replacing. I support the idea of memorializing in honor of people rather than commercial things. Brown – it would be good to keep track of when they are replaced and which ones should be maintained when. Rotwein – the draft policy states that people purchase a memorial bench & plaque for \$1,000 for 10 years then it can be rededicated or it becomes available to someone else. Five benches a year would be replaced or repaired. It would be offered to people with existing memorials, and then it would be offered to the community. Kitchen – some people may have felt that they got a bench forever, so they might be upset. Morehead – did they have that expectation? Rotwein: There was no paperwork. Leave the plaque and add new plaques. Kitchen - I'm a believer of grandfathering everything in, so it would be good to put those [existing plaques] on the new benches, along with the new ones. Rotwein - Good consideration. Where do multiple plaques fit in? No feedback from community yet as this is the first time it has come up. The only information at City Hall is a list of all 34 benches and names associated with those. Kenny - Does the list have the dates when they were dedicated? Benches need to be replaced – give them the option to continue at the new policy. Morehead – three plaques on a bench might be ok. Would one plaque make it more special? How many plaques for \$1,000? Kitchen – call the people and say you could pay for the whole bench or split up with others for the same price – 1<sup>st</sup> question – how many plaques are allowed? Start with the policy and consider the previous people. Agreed it should be kept as simple as possible. Morehead - Replace benches; replace plaques, consider how many plaques per bench. Kenny – the price would include the bench, plaque and repair for the 10 years. Rotwein \$1,000 is in the ball park for benches around this area. What type of benches should be purchased? Some benches are 30 years old. There will be a schedule for replacement. Brown – question – where will the money be going? Rotwein: this is the estimate from Public Works to get the bench and plaque then repair and maintain for 10 years.

### 3. Review Sign Inventory Assessment

Rotwein: This is an inventory of a sign assessment done by an HSU student. As you skim through it, you can see the lack of consistency and how scrappy they are. A sign design concept put together by the Rancheria is good and should be considered by the City. This will be forwarded to the committee. Many agencies are not maintaining signs. County signage needs improvement. Brown – should have a schedule for replacement so it won't get in such bad repair. Each type of sign needs an estimate of when it should be replaced. Rotwein - the Trinidad trail signage has never been fully implemented from the 2001 plan since people threaten to sue the City if they put up the sign. Kitchen - Trail markers are sometimes missing or confusing. Rotwein - consistent, well maintained signage will speak well for the City. The question is what should the signage look like – the placement has already been identified in the 2001 plan. It would be good to review the Trinidad trails policy [draft Trinidad Trails Plan from 2001 General Plan Update]. The policy should have specifics about what signs should be where. The Committee's overview recommendation should be about what signage should look like since the placement locations have already been established.

### 4. Vegetation Management Policy Schedule

Rotwein: This is something the committee can make a recommendation on. I talked with Public Works about a vegetation maintenance schedule and there really isn't one. Not much has been done at Trinidad Head because of the conflicts about this. Trinidad Head – 4 times a year scheduled around plant needs etc... Starting point – Trinidad head. Rest of town – can follow. Cuthbertson brings up maintenance at every Council meeting. What is State Parks doing and what is their schedule? Brown – it really depends on the specific types of plants – how fast they grow etc... this may be twice a year for some areas Morehead - what is in the existing Trinidad Head maintenance plan – view sheds? Rotwein – trails haven't been maintained because of controversy about trimming vegetation. Trim the view shed. Kenny - Bird breeding times is a consideration; fall and winter may be a good time for the view shed maintenance. Brown –

having buy-in about the maintenance is key; BLM Yurok, City, Trinidad Rancheria have been trying to work together, doing co-management on Trinidad Head and getting everyone on the same page. Many people don't want to talk about vegetation maintenance - if we can't do anything about it, we need to get everyone at the table to decide what to do. Rotwein - There is a very detailed plan that everyone has signed on to, though the Yurok may not have been there [when that was completed]. Maybe it's the people objecting to the policies that should come to the table. Some people have. If there is still conflict, maybe everyone needs to get back to the table to review and agree. Kitchen – hasn't the plan been agreed by all these agencies? Morehead: There are a couple plans going forward – Coastal Commission approved veg management plan; BLM Trinidad Head management plan. It would be good to make sure we have the most recent plan. Rotwein - follow up piece – find out what the vegetation management plan is for the 13 acre BLM property. Kitchen - What is State Parks doing [with their vegetation management]? Kenny - Usually they do it in June. Public Works feels threatened – what do they need to do their job with the appropriate backup? Do they need people to defend them while they're doing it? Rotwein –need to get more information so a schedule could be developed. Morehead – what can be managed on what trail width, where, what season, etc... it's not detailed enough.

Kitchen: This is our 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. We need a timeline of what we're doing, when we will have which recommendation. Rotwein – we will pull together recommendations for the things we've been talking about. Morehead – a bullet list of what the group wants to accomplish and what we've been working on – an action plan and timeline. Rotwein – we have two more meetings this year, so the timing will work out.

**VII. REQUEST FOR FUTURE ITEMS:** Morehead: a discussion about dogs and trails

Next meetings are scheduled as follows: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 4:30 – 6:00

October 24    November 28    No December meeting

The group liked meeting at the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust Office. Next meeting location tbd.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Submitted by:

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Rebecca Price-Hall  
Grant & Project Coordinator

Approved by:

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Susan Rotwein  
Mayor Pro Tem